

09/838,970

LINCP105US

REMARKS

Claims 1-57 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Favorable reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested in view of the following comments herein.

I. Objection of Figures 1, 2 and 3

Figures 1, 2 and 3 are objected to because of minor labeling informalities. Figures 1, 2 and 3 contain subscripts used to identify a plurality of welders and it is the Examiner's contention that the subscript system is confusing and not consistent. It is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn for at least the following reason. The subject invention's subscript system is consistent and well supported in the detailed description for each figure.

Figures 1, 2 and 3 all contain a subscript labeling system that label a first device with a subscript 1 and a last device with an N, M or J for Figs. 1, 2 and 3 respectively. In each detailed description, the last device designation is supported and documented. The detailed description for Figure 1 recites, "The system 100 includes a welder 110₁ through an Nth welder 110_N, *N being an integer greater than or equal to one.*" (See page 6, lines 21-22). Similarly, the description for Figure 2 discloses, "The system 200 includes a welder 210₁ through an Mth welder 210_M, *M being an integer greater than or equal to one.*" (See page 9, lines 8-9). Also, the description for Figure 3 discloses, "The system 300 includes a welder 310₁ through a Jth welder 310_J, *J being an integer greater than or equal to one.*" (See page 10, lines 24-25).

Therefore, Figures 1, 2, and 3 each have a disclosure in the detailed description that describes and fully supports each subscript label. For the above mentioned reasons, the objection to Figures 1, 2 and 3 should be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-57 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Spear *et al.* (US 6,486,439). It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn for at least the following reason. Spear *et al.* does not teach or suggest each and every element of the subject claim.

09/838,970

LINCP105US

A single prior art reference anticipates a patent claim only if it expressly or inherently describes each and every limitation set forth in the patent claim. *Trintec Industries, Inc., v. Top-U.S.A. Corp.*, 295 F.3d 1292, 63 U.S.P.Q.2d 1597 (Fed. Cir. 2002); *See Verdegaaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Specifically, Spear, *et al.* fails to teach or suggest **a consumable(s) monitor, a means for monitoring consumables, a consumable(s) monitor not receiving information regarding consumable usage** as recited in independent claims 1, 21, 37, 38, 43, 45, 48, 49, and 50. Rather, Spear, *et al.* teaches enabling remote retrieval of technical information regarding welding components and/or programs. For example, Spear, *et al.* teaches that components can include weld control hardware that controls associated welding equipment (*See* col. 6, lines 39-40), wherein the weld control hardware can include a plurality of control and monitor devices (*See* col. 6, lines 46-50). A broker component determines existing components within the system (*See* col. 6 lines 33-39), and then initiates a search for information regarding such components (*See* col. 6 lines 7-14). For example, welding equipment can be queried to determine machine type codes, model and serial numbers or codes, and/or software and hardware version numbers or codes (*See* col. 8, lines 6-10). Technical information can then be downloaded regarding such equipment, and an operator can determine whether replacement is necessary *via* reviewing the technical information. Links can be embedded in the information, thereby purchase of replacement equipment *via* navigating through a plurality of links (thereby generating a purchase order) (*See* col. 8 lines 54-65). However, Spear, *et al.* does not teach or suggest **monitoring consumable usage via a consumable(s) usage component**.

The subject invention teaches mitigates undesirable occurrences *via monitoring consumable(s)* and managing such consumables (*e.g.*, ordering, supplier identification, forecasting data, *etc.*). Consumable(s) can be restocked at appropriate times, thereby maintaining desirable inventory while alleviating concerns of welder latency due to

09/838.970

LINCP105US

depletion of consumables.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Spear, *et al.* neither anticipates nor suggests applicants' invention as recited in independent claims 1, 21, 37, 38, 43, 45, 48, 49, and 50 (and claims 2-20, 22-36, 39-42, 44, 46-47, and 51-53 which respectively depend therefrom), and this rejection should be withdrawn.

09/838,970

LINCP105US

III. Conclusion

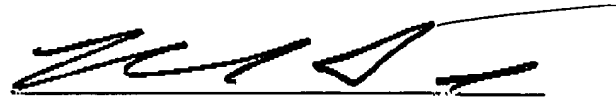
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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